# Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG) Teleconference

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**
**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

## Key Points and Action Items

### 1. Attendees

- Ali Dunn, Shannon Murphy, Patrick Morris, Lori Chumney, Wes Smith, Susan Klasing, Dawit Tadesse, Chris Schmitt, Harry Ohlendorf, Bruce Monson, Carrie Austin, Melissa Daugherty, Lauren Smitherman, Mary Fiore-Wagner, Alanna Misico, Heather Boyd, Chad Loflen, Terry Fleming, Autumn Bonnema, Gary Ichikawa, Billy Jakl, Scott Lucas, Ryan Mayfield, Bryan Freuh, Beckye Stanton, Jennifer Salisbury, Kim Pham, Ken Schiff, Jay Davis

### 2. Information: General Updates

- Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs – Carrie Austin - In "controlled delay" status. Work has deliberately slowed down while they develop additional options for conducting pilot tests in a few reservoirs.
- OEHHA advisories - Susan Klasing
  - An update on recent OEHHA advisories is attached.
  - Action: Susan will distribute advisory development plan to BOG for feedback next week
- Datasets recently added to CEDEN
  - 2016 Delta RMP Mercury (ProjectCode = 16DRMP5Hg)
  - RWB6 Fish Tissue 2016-2019 (ProjectCode = RWB6_Fish_Contract_2016_2019)
  - Lake Clementine Fish Tissue Sampling Data 2015 (Projectcode = Fish_Tissue_Lake Clementine_2015)
  - Lake Combie Fish Tissue Sampling Data 2015-2016 (ProjectCode = Fish_Tissue_Lake Combie_2015-2016)
  - Carrie Austin noted that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is working to load all of their monitoring related to the Guadalupe River TMDL on to CEDEN.
- Delta RMP mercury monitoring – Annual fish monitoring continues at 7 sites. Supplemented by fairly extensive water monitoring.
- Bay RMP sport fish monitoring – Occurs on a five-year cycle, and 2019 is a sampling year.

### 3. Discussion: 2015, 2016, and 2017 Data Reports

- The reports were not completed in time for the meeting. Reasons for delay:
  - Applying improvements to the full set of 3 reports – separating data for different locations within lakes

    - Finding errata – sport fish and prey fish, incorrect sample type
    - New data flow
- Timeline for completion
    - Out for review by 3/25
    - Comments by 4/8

**4. Information: Progress and Timeline for the 2018 Monitoring of the Southern California Bight (and Coast)**

- A timeline showing the steps in the process of generating and reporting data for the study was reviewed in detail (see meeting Powerpoint).
- Jay Davis and Ken Schiff acknowledged the outstanding work by Gary Ichikawa, Billy Jakl, Scott Lucas, and others involved in the fish collection, and by Autumn Bonnema in coordinating sample processing for this exceptionally complicated study.
- **Action: Ali Dunn** will check with Delta on their estimated completion date for the organics analysis for the 2018 Bight samples.
- **Action: Ali Dunn** will check on whether it is intended that data flagged as preliminary on CEDEN/data.ca.gov should be used by OEHHA and others for analysis.
- **Action: Ali Dunn** will check with SWAMP IQ on how long it will take for them to review and post the 2018 data on CEDEN/data.ca.gov.
- Review of the draft report by SCCWRP will occur in three phases: review of data quality, oral presentations to two committees, and a draft report.
- We will decide this summer whether to have a separate BOG meeting with an oral presentation, or a joint meeting with one of the Bight committees. If the timing works, we may opt for the joint meeting.

**5. Due to an egregious numbering error, there was no Item 5. We went straight to Item 6.**

**6. Discussion: Sampling Plan for 2019 – Bass Lakes Panel 3**

- The sampling plan for 2019 was presented and discussed (see meeting Powerpoint).
- The discussion focused on the following details of the design.
- Where to collect and analyze samples for organics
    - OEHHA develops advisories using a hazard index that uses a combination of data for mercury, PCBs, and potentially other contaminants. The need for organics data in bass depends on the mercury and PCB levels in a water body.
    - **Action: Jay Davis** will distribute the table listing the lakes to be sampled and whether to include organics or not.
    - **Action: OEHHA** will provide detailed information on lakes in Panel 3 where they need organics data.
    - **Action: OEHHA** will also provide a list of other water bodies where they need organics data.
    - **Action: Autumn Bonnema** send the list of lakes being covered by Region 4.

- **Action: Ali Dunn** will identify lakes where samples for algal toxins are desired.
- **Action: Autumn Bonnema** will look into the preservation and processing requirements for algal toxins.
- **Action: Lauren Smitherman** will share information regarding size restrictions for sport fish at the lakes of interest.
- **Action: Jay Davis** check on the legal size limits for each of the lakes on the list for this year. We should focus the sampling on legal-sized fish.
- **Action: OEHHA** send their table of minimum sizes to Jay.
- **Action: Jay Davis** create a table listing all of the different size limits.
- **Action: Jay Davis** send Table 6 from the Sampling Plan to Carrie Austin (this is included in the meeting Powerpoint).
- **Action: Everyone** will provide input on the lake list table to Jay by March 25.

- Sampling design modifications
  - Changes to the design are summarized in the illustrations below. These illustrations fill the need of the decision matrix that was discussed at the meeting.
  - Allow early OEHHA review of data when it becomes available to evaluate the need for additional analysis of organics in largemouth bass composites.
  - To the extent that is practicable, focus on sampling reservoirs where TL3 is the highest trophic level (e.g., trout lakes) before July 31 (to conform to the specifications of the statewide mercury objective for prey fish). The State Board will use prey fish data collected throughout the year to assess impairment, but not for assessing compliance. Prey fish data are only used for assessing impairment in TL3 water bodies.
  - Per the statewide objectives for sport fish, the maximum size fish for comparison to the objective is 500 mm. We should make sure we have at least 8 fish (statewide objective specification) within the legal limit and less than 500 mm.
- Need to have the revised design completed by the end of March to allow sampling to begin in April.
- The group expressed an interest in sampling fish from hatcheries. Add this to the long-term BOG wish list, for consideration under the next three-year contract. Shannon Murphy noted that three hatcheries in the Imperial Valley are a source of catfish for many lakes in Southern California.

## 7. Discussion: Monitoring Council Matters

- Due to other items running long, Jay provided a very brief update on revisions to the Portal. "Asks" of the Monitoring Council were not discussed.

## 8. Decision: Data Story for 2019 Water Quality Status Report

- Due to other items running long this was also a very brief discussion. The group approved the proposed data story: OEHHA Advisories – Turning Data into Information
- Harry Ohlendorf recommended emphasizing that getting the data generators talking with the data users, as we do in the BOG, is an important element of successfully turning data into information.

## 9. Discussion: Long-term Monitoring Plan

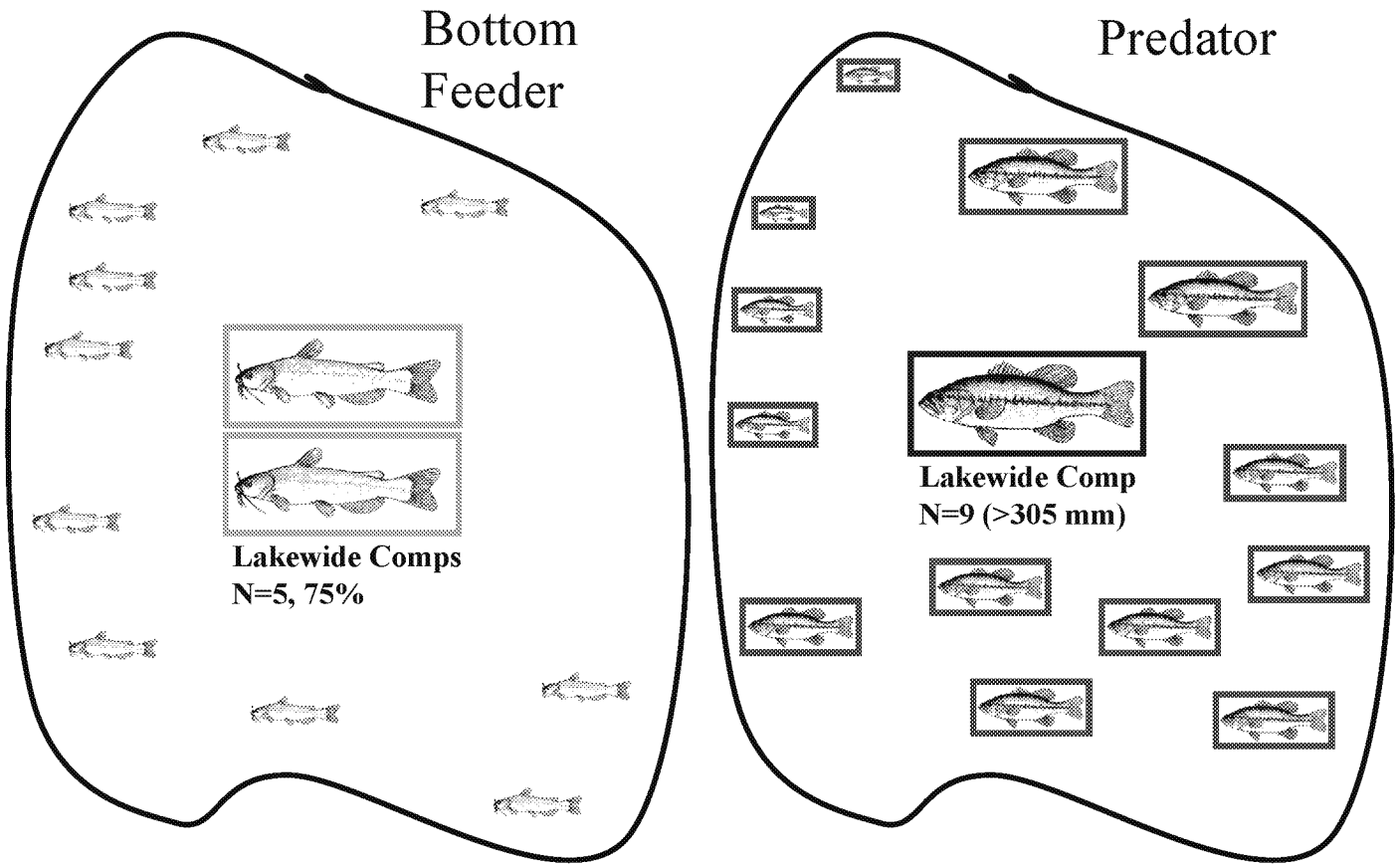
- A refresher and update of the long-term plan was provided.
- River monitoring will be a focus in 2022. Support for the Central Valley Rivers Methylmercury TMDL will be a major driver of the study.
- Monitoring of fire impacts was discussed. Carrie Austin noted that there is a lot of interest and activity on this. We should make sure not to duplicate any effort.
- Ali Dunn provided information on AB 762. The bill is under consideration in the Assembly. The bill points out that "Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with the office, to develop the Coastal Fish Contamination Program to identify and monitor chemical contamination in coastal fish and shellfish and assess the health risks of consuming sport fish and shellfish caught by consumers." SWAMP's Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program has picked up where the CFCP left off, but shellfish monitoring is not being covered thoroughly. The group agreed that shellfish is an important fishery that is not being monitoring adequately. Additional funding would be needed to take this on.

*Small Lake*
*(0 – 500 ha)*

| Se+(PCBs) | PCBs+Hg+Se | Hg |
|---|---|---|

Analyze PCBs if OEHHA criteria are met

Updated Mar 2019



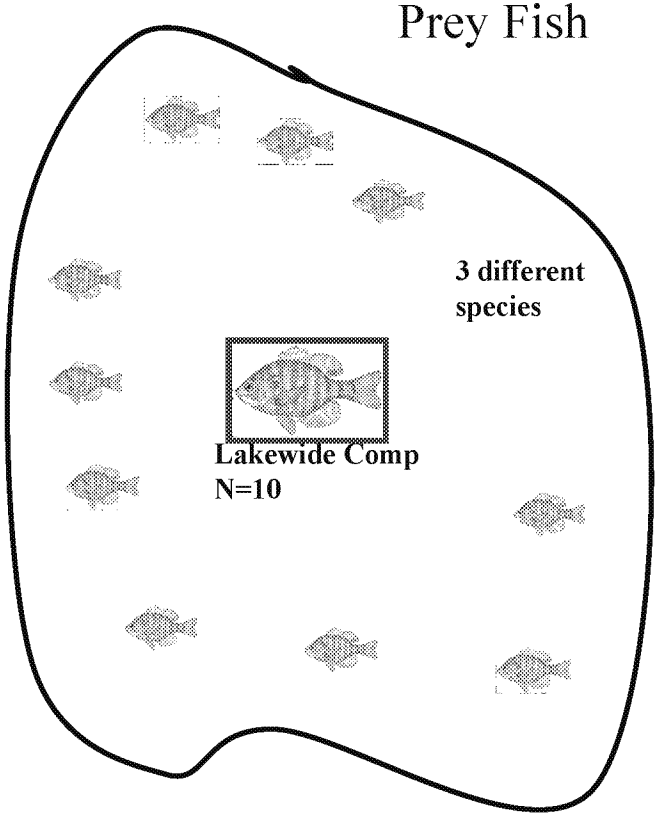
*Small Lake*
*(0 – 500 ha)*

Se+(Orgs) | Orgs+Hg+Se | Hg

Hg+Se

Updated Mar 2019

## Prey Fish

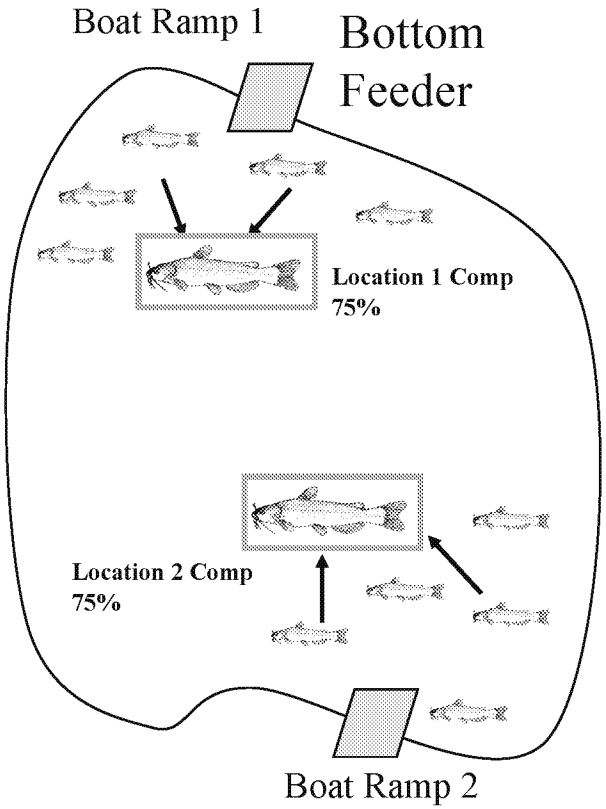


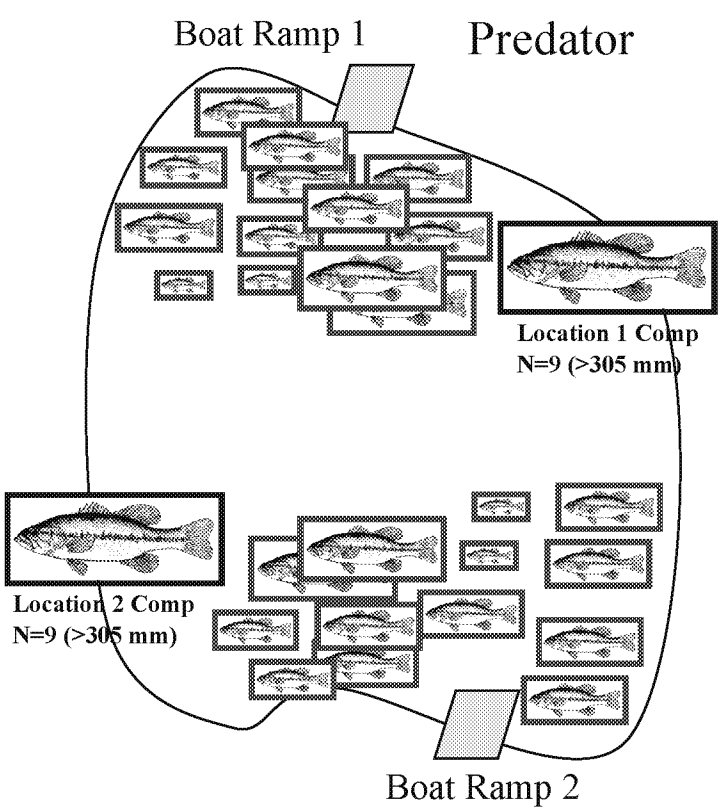
*Medium Lake*
*(500 – 1000 ha)*

| Se+(Orgs) | Orgs+Hg+Se | Hg |
|---|---|---|

Analyze organics if OEHHA criteria are met

Updated Mar 2019



*Medium Lake*
*(500 – 1000 ha)*

Se+(Orgs) | Orgs+Hg+Se | Hg | Hg+Se

Updated Mar 2019